



TOP OF TOWER OF SUTTON BENGEE CHURCH.

it, till Bishop Ward came, who would not be so imposed on; and the like error runs from generation to generation concerning Stoneheng, that the stones there are artificial. But, to return to the pillars of this church, they are all real marble, and shew the grain of the Sussex marble (*sc.* the little cockles), from whence they were brought. [These pillars are not made of Sussex marble, but of that kind which is brought from a part of Dorsetshire called the Isle of Purbeck.—J. B.] At every ninth foot they are jointed with an ornament or band of iron or copper. This quarric hath been closed up and forgot time out of mind, and the last year, 1680, it was accidentally discovered by felling of an old oak; and it now serves London."

"*Memorandum.*—About 1669 or 1670 Bishop Ward invited Sir Christopher Wren to Salisbury, out of curiosity, to survey the church there, as to the steeple, architecture, &c. He was above a week about it, and writ a sheet or a sheet and a half, an account of it, which he presented to the bishop. I asked the bishop since for it, and he told me he had lent it, to whom he could not tell, and had no copy of it. 'Tis great pity the pains of so great an artist should be lost. Sir Christopher tells me he hath no copie of it either."

This year, 1691, Mr. Anth. Wood tells me, he hath got a transcript of Sir Chr. Wren's paper: which obtain, and insert here. I much doubted I should never have heard of it again."

[Soon after writing this passage Aubrey probably obtained a copy of Sir Christopher Wren's report, which he has inserted in his original manuscript. It is dated in 1669, and occupies eleven folio pages. In *The History and Antiquities of the Cathedral of Salisbury*, &c. (1723, 8vo.), it is printed, and described as 'An Architectonical Account of this Cathedral,' by 'an eminent gentleman.' Part of the same report was printed in Wren's *Parentalia* (1750); and a short abstract of it will also be found in Dodsworth's *Salisbury Cathedral* (written by the late Mr. Hatcher), p. 172. In a communication from the last named gentleman in 1841, when he was engaged upon his *History of Salisbury*, he wrote to me as follows: 'I have lately fallen upon what appears to have been Sir C. Wren's original report relative to the cathedral; a very elaborate report on the

state of the building in 1691, by a person named Neish; some good observations on the bending of the piers (anonymous); and several es-

timates and observations made by Price. What I shall do with them I have not yet determined.—J. B.]"

"The top of the tower of *Sutton Benger* is very elegant, there is not such another in the county. It much resembles St. Walborough's [St. Werborg's], at Bristol." The tower of Sutton Benger church; here alluded to, has a large open-work'd pinnacle, rising from the centre of the roof; a beautiful and very singular ornament.

It is represented by the annexed engraving, from the title-page of the volume, with which we will end our notice of this interesting contribution to the history of Wiltshire. Mr. Britton has performed his task well, and deserves our best thanks. He remarks in his preface, that it is his intention now to devote himself to the autobiography which he has undertaken to write for the host of kind friends who have subscribed a large sum of money as a public testimonial to him. With all cordiality and sincerity, we wish him a continuance of good health and spirits to complete his retrospect, and enjoy the congratulations of a larger and more attached circle of friends than most men have the good fortune to possess.

EARLY DOORWAY IN ELY CATHEDRAL. RECENTLY DISCOVERED THERE.

THE Norman, or early English doorway, which forms the subject of our cut, has been recently discovered in the wall of the north transept of Ely Cathedral. The straight top of the door is supported by a corbel, with a circular ornament on each side, which has been used as an authority for the restoration of the broken portions of the elegantly-sculptured Norman door, at the upper end of the south wall of the nave. The round head of the door is merely cut in the stone, to resemble radiated stones; the tympanum beneath is slightly recessed, and the scale pattern within cut in low relief. This door had been concealed by mere modern plastering, and has been restored during the recent judicious repairs.



EARLY DOORWAY, ELY CATHEDRAL.